

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Azerbaijan) **CONFIDENTIAL**

DATE DISTR. 10 February 1948
50X1-HUM

SUBJECT 1. Development of Taz, Oilfield
2. Sabotage of Oil Installations
by Resistance Group

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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. An oilfield is being developed six kilometers southeast of Taz, Azerbaijan. Initial borings were made before the war, and the field, which covers approximately ten hectares, now has twenty-five drills in operation. Four of these are experimental drills.
2. There are 1,000 Russians and 300 PWs employed on the field. Daily produc-
tion averages 450,000 liters of crude oil.
3. An oil pipeline 16 kms. in length leads from the oilfield to the main
Tbilisi-Baku line, 10 kms. north of Taz. Because of frequent sabotage of
the line in 1946, it has been enclosed in a prohibited zone and is strongly
patrolled. This sabotage is believed to have been caused by a local
resistance organization which is called "Oga Meba".
4. In May 1946 there was a large fire in this oilfield and production was
halted for some weeks; four German PWs, one Italian, one Pole, and the
senior Soviet engineer were arrested and removed as a result.
5. Natural gas from the wells is brought by pipeline to Taz, where one half is
bottled and the other refined.

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Comment: Taz is not shown on available maps, but it is listed
in a Russian official time-table as being 21 kms. (southeast) from Akstafa
(41°08'N, 45°26'E) on the Akstafa-Kirovabad sector of the Tbilisi-Baku
railroad.)

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